

REMARKS

Claims 6 through 24 are pending in the application with the present amendments. Original claims 1-5 are canceled in favor of new claims 6 through 24.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the application for noncompliance with the best mode requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112. It is submitted that the invention is disclosed in the specification in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The fact that the description of the invention is accompanied by a description of the environment within which the invention operates does not indicate concealment of best mode. A description of the environment in which the invention operates is necessary to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 including the written description requirement and enablement. As the Examiner has not pointed to a better mode for practicing the invention than that disclosed in the application, this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over United States Patent No. 6,430,225 B1 to Okawa et al issued August 2, 2002 (hereinafter "Okawa"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that the presently pending claims overcome the rejections made by the Examiner and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

The presently pending claims set forth an invention of an interface unit operable to connect to a bus and a method for bus initialization, in which a bus reset signal is transmitted onto a bus for transmission to partner communication devices. The interface unit is operable to enter a reset wait state in response to passage of a predetermined period of time and only after receiving a response to the bus reset signal from each of the partner communication devices. (claims 6, 16 and 17). Further, other claims recite that the response from each partner

device must include a bus reset signal (claims 7, 18). Other claims recite that an idle signal is transmitted onto the bus after passage of the predetermined period of time (claims 9, 19). Still other claims recite that a tree identification phase is entered only after receipt of a signal from each partner device in response to the idle signal (claims 10, 20). Still other claims recite that a signal from one or more of the partner devices in response to the idle signal includes a signal requesting designation of a node including the partner device as a child node of the node that includes the interface unit (claims 11, 21). Claims 15 and 24 recite that the predetermined period of time is that period of time specified for a short bus reset according to the IEEE P1394a draft specification.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the presently claimed features of the invention as indicated above are either taught or suggested by *Okawa*. *Okawa* is merely background to the invention. *Okawa* does not teach the communication of signals and change of state by an interface unit only after receipt of responses from each partner communication device, and in response to passage of a predetermined period of time, as set forth in the presently pending claims.

Support for the present amendment is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0122] to [0132] of the Specification.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections.

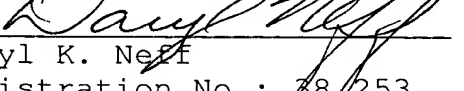
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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